

APOCALYPTIC HORSEPLAY

BY BOB SCHMIDT

WE WERE NOT
ALWAYS SENTIENT.

IN THE BEGINNING,
WE WERE MERELY
ENERGIES.



FORCES SHAPED BY
MANKIND AND FUELED
BY THEIR HARDSHIP
AND SUFFERING.

BUT UNLIKE
MANKIND, WE WEREN'T
CREATED TO STAY
THIS WAY.



WE EVOLVED.

SLOWLY ACHIEVING
CONSCIOUSNESS OVER
SEVERAL LIFETIMES.



ALSO UNLIKE MANKIND,
OUR EXISTENCE WAS NEVER
PLAGUED BY THE LACK OF
MEANING.

FROM THE
START, WE ALL HAD
A MISSION.



A
PURPOSE.

TO BRING ABOUT
JUDGMENT DAY
AND THE END OF
ALL THINGS.



UNTIL JUST DECADES
AGO, THAT WAS OUR
ONLY GOAL...

BUT THEN
WE...





STILL
FINE.

LET ME
START
OVER.



AGES AGO, FOR
REASONS UNKNOWN,
GOD'S PLAN REVEALED
THE END OF THE WORLD
WOULD NEVER BE THE
LORD'S DECREE.



INSTEAD, IT WAS
ENTRUSTED TO THE
WILL OF FOUR EARTH
BOUND ENTITIES.

FOUR
HORSEMEN.

US.

INDEED, WE DID
NOT COME FROM THE
HEAVENS, OR ASCENDED
FROM DARKNESS.



WE WERE
ALWAYS
HERE.

AMONGST
YOU.

WE MAY NOT BE GOD'S
CHILDREN, BUT HE GRANTED
US THE SAME GIFT HE ONCE
GRANTED YOU.

FREE
WILL.

WE HAD A
CHANGE OF
HEART.

WE DECIDED
TO RENOUNCE OUR
FATEFUL PLANS,
STEPPED BACK
FROM THE WORLD
AND RELAXED
OUR GRIP ON
HUMANITY.



WE RETIRED
SO TO SPEAK.

AND SINCE THEN
YOUR FATE HAS
BEEN ENTIRELY IN
YOUR HANDS.



YOU SEEM
CONFUSED.

DID I
LOSE YOU
MEAN?

NO, I
JUST...

I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU'RE
TELLING ME
ALL THIS.



BECAUSE
IF YOU TRULY
WISH TO HELP
US...



...YOU NEED TO
UNDERSTAND WHY
PRESERVING THE SECRET
OF OUR EXISTENCE IS
PARAMOUNT.

THERE ARE
DARK FORCES
IN THIS WORLD.

FORCES THAT RESSENT
OUR RETRACTION AND
WOULD SEEK US OUT TO
USE AND CORRUPT US

SURE.
YEA, PROPER
LEGEND.

ONE QUESTION
THO: HOW DO I
KNOW ANY OF
THIS IS TRUE?

YOU DON'T.
I'M ASKING.



BUT KNOW
THIS.

A man with dark hair, wearing a red shirt, is shown from the chest up, looking down. He is in a dark room with a reddish-brown background. The lighting is dim, creating a somber and mysterious atmosphere. The man's expression is serious and contemplative.

IF YOU EVER
REVEAL ANY OF
OUR SECRETS TO
ANYONE...



IT'LL BE
THE LAST THING
YOU EVER DO.